CHAPTER XXIV

HTSTOUV AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ZIONISM

I. HISTORY

(L) MMSSIANIO ZIONISM

THE Zionist movement lias a twofold origin: an East and a West European, a Messianic and a political origin. Even in the nineteenth century the hope was still alive in East European Jewry for the coming of the Messiah who from the uttermost ends of the earth would lead the Jews back to Palestine and revive their ancient kingdom. From time to time this hope received a further impulse, as certain statesmen played on it for their own ends; thus in 1799 Napoleon during his Egyptian campaign tried to win over the Oriental Jews to his side by holding out to them a hope of the revival of their kingdom. In 1841, when after the defeat of Mehmet All Palestine passed into the hands of the European Great Powers, Colonel Churchill, British Consul at Beirut, submitted to the Jewish, Board of Deputies in London a plan for the restoration of the Jewish kingdom, but received no support from them.[1]

When in 1882 pogroms and anti-Semitic legislation reduced the Russian Jews to despair and gave

rise to mass emigration,, the vast majority went to America, but a small fraction, mostly of the intelligentsia, turned to Palestine. They thought that the Jews should not passively await the coming of the Messiah and the restoration of the Jewish State, but should seek to prepare the way for it by settling

[1] For the early history of Zionism see N. Sokolow, *History of Zionism,* 2 vols. (London, 1910).